

K/U	A	C	T	Total
/11	/9	/5	/5	/30

What is Cancer?

Cancer is a disease that starts in our cells. Our bodies are made up of millions of cells, grouped together to form tissues and organs such as muscles and bones, the lungs and the liver. Genes inside each cell order it to grow, work, reproduce and die. Normally, our cells obey these orders and we remain healthy. But sometimes the instructions get mixed up, causing the cells to form lumps or tumours, or spread through the bloodstream and lymphatic system to other parts of the body.

Tumours can be either benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous). Benign tumour cells stay in one place in the body and are not usually life-threatening. Malignant tumour cells are able to invade nearby tissues and spread to other parts of the body. Cancer cells that spread to other parts of the body are called metastases. The first sign that a malignant tumour has spread (metastasized) is often swelling of nearby lymph nodes, but cancer can metastasize to almost any part of the body. It is important to find malignant tumours as early as possible.

Cancers are named after the part of the body where they start. For example, cancer that starts in the bladder but spreads to the lung is called bladder cancer with lung metastases.

[www.cancer.ca– Canadian Cancer Society – What is Cancer? Fact Sheet]

Your task:

Use the Canadian Cancer Society's website to answer the following questions. All answers should be in full sentences/paragraphs:

1. Define the following terms: cancer, tumor, benign tumor, malignant tumour, metastasis (metastasized), mutation, carcinogen (7 K)
2. How does cell division in a normal cell compare with that of a cancerous cell? (2 A)
3. List the factors affecting cancer. (2 K)
4. Identify ways to reduce the risk of cancer. (2 K)
5. Select one of the cancers listed below and answer the following questions:

Cancer list: Brain tumour, Breast cancer, Head/Neck cancer, Leukemia, Lung cancer, Lymphomas, Prostate, Sarcoma, Skin cancer, Liver, Bladder, Larynx, Testicular cancer, Thyroid cancer

- a) Risk factors associated with this cancer. (2 A)
- b) How can a person reduce the risk of this type of cancer. (5 T)
- c) How is this type of cancer detected (diagnosed)? (2 A)
- d) How is it treated? (3 A)

clear expression of ideas, use of appropriate vocabulary (5 C)